

*Teach me your way, O Lord, that I may walk in  
your truth; unite my heart to fear your name.*

*Psalms 86:11*

**ITMI**  
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[intouchmission.org](http://intouchmission.org)

## 7 Things the Lord Impressed on Me in Asia

### PAKISTAN

#### #1 The enemy is using our press to subvert the Great Commission.

While planning my travel to Pakistan, many encouraged me not to go. Many expressed sentiments like, “You know what goes on over there!” “I don’t really think you should go to Pakistan,” or “Think about doing something different than going there.” The fear-mongering of our godless press peddling their half-baked “facts” stokes the fires of our fears and breeds animosity towards people we have never met, all to pad the bottom line of their corporations.

Fear-based reporting is more profitable than the facts, and the result is that we stop thinking of people who are different from us as human beings created in His Image. In the tunnel vision of fear, we can all forget Who is in charge, what He has promised His children, and what He has called us to do.

Rather than the terrifying landscape often reported, I found Pakistan to be one of the most gracious and engaging places I have ever visited. Muslims in shops and the streets were glad to

see and talk with a foreigner. They seemed curious and hungry to engage. Regardless of their religion, they were hospitable and kind.

The mere fact that any believer from the west would come to visit when few ever do gave me great freedom to speak the truth and light into the lives and ministries of the believers there. It's an opportunity I'm glad I didn't miss by giving in to fear.

#### #2 Christians have significant physical needs but are hungry for fellowship and His Word.

The Christians there were hungry for fellowship. Their intense, curiously hopeful stares were veiled with caution, hoping to have the chance to engage but apprehensive of stepping outside cultural norms. They wanted to interact at whatever level they could. Sometimes, that was just a hug - a non-verbal means of receiving a deeply needed connection.

I knew going over that some Pakistanis live in slavery, but it was one thing to assent to that fact cognitively and another to look an enslaved human being in the eyes,  
*(continued on p.2)*



Pastors and their wives eagerly engage with the SALT discipleship material Steve taught.



Two Christian women, one wanting healing, the other wanting a baby boy.



Abid and Steve teach Biblical financial principles from the SALT discipleship material.



hug them, and hear their story. I remember thinking, “I can’t believe there really are still slaves in the world.” In this culture, many of them are Christians (for various reasons).

The Lord impressed on me their joyful and grateful response to the simple act of my showing up to visit their humble homes and compounds. They were calm, content, and thankful for something as simple as being able to consume the Bible daily via an audio Bible from ITMI. (Many are illiterate, so hearing the Bible opens up a whole new world for them!)

**#3 Your donations to our Where Most Needed Fund are genuinely precious gifts from our Provider.**

These gifts allow us to meet needs on a moment’s notice - the kind that come up at the last minute. We can seize impactful opportunities that won’t wait for the fundraising process, such as saving a life for \$200 or helping a pastors association implement what they learned about Christian unity from the SALT material by coming together to meet each other’s Kingdom-building needs.

## INDIA

**#4 David and Taru’s faithfulness and the growth of their ministry**

Though they’ve faced an unrelenting stream of challenges like Covid and cultural unrest, our partners **David and Taru Kumar** continue to minister faithfully.

The way David and Taru use any excuse possible to invite people into the added room above their home to celebrate (literally anything), have a training session, Bible study, or quiet prayer time left an impression on me. I saw firsthand how all who enter experience what a “place of peace” is like amid frantic, hopeless, and fearful surroundings.

David and Taru save a great deal on rental expenses and clean-up fees,



Audio Bible recipients, content and thankful that they can listen to God’s Word daily.



Modern day believer and slave moved with gratitude for life-saving medical treatment for his daughter and an audio Bible.



The students at Deepam are very engaged in the Bible-rich curriculum.



A Deepam student proudly tells his peers part of a Bible story after Taru reads it to them.



bypassing the once-used conference hall rentals for their festivities. Because God used all of us to help them build this room, they can use it much more often and create additional opportunities to bring people together and share truth and love with them.

Every time David and his co-worker, Pastor Walter, travel to rural locations to train believers and leaders to share Jesus with their Muslim friends and neighbors, David gets genuinely sick.

Heat exhaustion, poor water quality, and the substandard personal hygiene of the rural villagers take a significant toll on his physical body. David is literally laying his health at Jesus' feet each time he ventures to the rural areas - roughly once a month.

The consistent pairing of sickness with his travel to rural areas, where the enemy displays his strongholds, is no coincidence. I've no doubt David and Walter must stand up to spiritual attacks each time they bring "light" and truth into this darkness. I love how he doesn't hesitate to schedule the next series of conferences, knowing it will mean days of feeling miserable and extended recovery.

Despite these challenges, David and Taru have implemented new programming at Deepam Primary School. They are more intentional than ever. These new programs afford them greater freedom to share Jesus and God's truth with the students and their families.

## #5 Dinner on the grounds works in any culture.

Asians do love their rice - I ate rice, rice, and more rice. They don't fix their meat anything like we do in the USA, partly because having meat to eat is such a rare privilege. They make sure nothing is wasted, and it is socially acceptable to gnaw the meat off the bones to ensure none of the precious commodity goes to waste.

There is something about eating together that transcends cultural and language barriers. Eating together is

unifying. Maybe because, in a subtle way, it reminds us that no matter who we are or where we came from, we are needy.

We need food to survive, and sitting together to meet that need creates a bond of humanity that I believe the Lord intentionally infused into our human experience, that we might never forget our dependence on Him and be united in it. It was really special to observe the new Cambodian believers experience dinner-on-the-grounds after their first ever Sunday Service.

## #6 The Lord has been preparing me for Asia for a long time.

Some of you may know that I love riding motorcycles and using my photography skills. My father gave me my first motorcycle and my first camera years before I was involved with ITMI. I needed both of those skills in a big way on this trip.

I would estimate there are 7 or 8 motorcycles for every car or truck on Asian roads. Whole families ride on a single, one-cylinder 100cc motorcycle and are elated that they don't have to walk.

Our partners and contacts in these countries usually can't afford an automobile or don't know how to operate one. The indescribable chaos on the roads caused by the frenzied, rule-less, my-needs-above-your-safety attitude of most Asian motorists as they repeatedly lay on their horns at every whim would be a terrible environment to learn to drive in.

You need nerves of steel and an unflinching hyper focus just to back out of your parking spot, much less get across town while competing with a million or two of your closest motor rivals for limited road space.

## #7 I am incredibly grateful and dependent on your prayers and support.

This trip felt like an incredible success for the Kingdom. It seemed so meaningful to

*(continued on p.6)*



Plates of rice prepared for an after-service meal in Pakistan.



The Lord has been preparing me for Asia for a long time.



My camera was useful for making connections with kids attending children's church at Abid's church in Pakistan.



I am incredibly grateful for your prayers and support!





Fifteen-year-old Casa Dorca resident, Sebi, is kind and energetic.



Sebi's sister, Denisa, enjoys reading, singing and playing guitar.

## ROMANIA

### Meet Sebi and Denisa

Fifteen-year-old Sebi is kind, energetic and always willing to help. He is currently in the care of our partners at **Casa Dorca Children's Home** in Romania.

He enjoys goofing around and making people laugh. In his free time, he enjoys playing soccer and

ping pong, and even plays on a local soccer team. Sebi has talked about wanting to be a welder or a cook when he grows up. He is currently in middle school and we ask that you pray for him to be motivated at school so that he can have the opportunity to be accepted into a good high school.

Sebi's sister, Denisa, is 17 and also in the care of Casa Dorca Children's Home. Denisa enjoys reading, singing, playing the

guitar, and working on her photography skills. She is very involved in church activities and enjoys sharing her musical skills with the congregation. While Denisa's future plans fluctuate, she is working hard to transfer to a better high school so she can have more opportunities after her high school career. Please pray that Denisa would listen to the Lord's calling in her life as she considers her future path.

In early March, the children attended evangelism services at their church. This is an annual event for the church, and is typically attended by people in the community who do not usually attend church. There were guest speakers and musicians.

Last month, **Ionel Lovescu**, the Director at Casa Dorca wrote, "We would like to take a moment to thank In Touch Mission International for their emergency gift of \$2000 for firewood to take care of our short-term needs. This was a big answer to prayer, and we are grateful that we could have heat in February. Although the weather is turning warmer this week, we still need to heat at night, and we heat the hot water with wood until May when the solar water heater becomes effective. We are now raising money to buy firewood early for next winter. It costs \$15,000 for a year of firewood, and this is the most cost-effective way to heat the building. Our goal is to reach this amount before summer, and we ask for [your prayers and support](#)."

Casa Dorca needs to collect these funds before summer so the wood has time to dry out before winter. Dry wood burns more efficiently than wood that hasn't had a chance to dry out.



## UKRAINE

### Serving Under Fire

The first few days of April will once again find ITMI's **Steve Evers** overseas. This time, he'll head to Romania, where ITMI's **Adi and Ema Ban** have planned a four-day retreat of physical and spiritual restoration for leaders serving in Ukraine. These pastors and their wives have served faithfully for over a year while shells fly around them. They've chosen to stay in the war-torn country and put their own safety at risk in order to demonstrate and declare the Good News to those who have lost homes and family members in the Russian invasion. The expenses of the retreat are not yet fully funded. Please consider standing with our Ukrainian brothers and sisters in this way.

## SOUTH AFRICA

### How I was humbled by a lesson from the Lord

*By Gerhard le Roux*

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

It is with deep gratitude towards our Lord Jesus Christ and towards our brothers and sisters at ITMI that we write this newsletter. We were once again reminded of the fact that the body of Christ functions in unity and that we as Christians do not have to look to Egypt (the world) for our hope and salvation.

When I received the invitation for the 2023 Kwasizabantu Ministers Conference, it came to my heart to invite a certain gentleman from Onseepkans to accompany me. This was confirmed to me when my wife and daughter expressed the same desire.

This gentleman is the chairman of the Onseepkans Roman Catholic

Brotherhood of men, and upon inviting him he expressed his desire that the whole brotherhood should go. He then suggested that I contact a mining company in the area for financial assistance to cover the traveling cost.

Initially I was excited, but over time I was less and less convinced that this was the right route to take. Reluctantly I wrote to the mine, but I received no response. A little more than a week before the conference I wrote again, but again received no reply.

As I considered other options for traveling arrangements, the thought came to me that I should inquire about the price of bus tickets for the six men of the brotherhood and myself. When I received our donations from ITMI in March, it was enough to cover our transport to the conference and back! What also blessed me was that I did not in advance make the need known to ITMI, in fact only after the conference in a newsletter did ITMI mention the need as a prayer request!

God showed me how upside down I reason about things and that His thoughts are not my thoughts and His ways are not my ways. Here I was, looking for help from those that harvest the minerals from the ground, while failing to trust the One who put the minerals in the ground in the first place! I was humbled by the lesson that God taught me.

Friday morning at 5:00 we started our journey towards Kwazulu Natal and after nearly 24 hours on the bus and 1400km later we arrived in Durban, where we were picked up by a young man from the mission.

On arrival at Kwasizabantu mission we were assigned to a room in the men's student hostel of Cedar International college, a teachers

college on the mission. The men were subjected to an environment where everything was saturated with prayer. They experienced God at work, from feeding the multitudes attending the conference, to the blessing of everything that God is doing on the mission. They partook in a tour to the new Aquelle water factory, the latest of now three factories supplying plain and flavored water throughout South Africa and Namibia.

The conference started on the Monday evening and lasted for the next two days, with four sermons or presentations every day. Apart from breakfast, lunch and supper, in between the services the mission also provided refreshments. Apart from the spiritual blessings of the messages, the men also witnessed how everybody on the mission worked tirelessly together to serve the thousands that attended. It was clear to all that only God could bring such a miracle about.

Friday evening we started undertaking the long journey home by bus and arrived early Sunday morning at our homes. My heart was full of joy for all the blessings that God had bestowed upon us.

I sincerely want to thank ITMI and its supporters for staying faithful to God and the proclamation of His Kingdom. Sometimes a person just stays faithful to that which God calls him to do, without realizing the extent to which God uses his or her faithfulness. This is what I witnessed when God provided the funds for the bus tickets through the faithfulness of the supporters of ITMI. We honor you for how you helped to bring these men of Onseepkans in contact with the revival at Kwasizabantu Mission."

*- Gerhard le Roux*



(continued from p.3)

those I visited. I celebrate the opportunities I had to point people toward Jesus and encourage them toward greater understanding of Who Jesus is and trust in Him.

But it's not my success. You sent. You prayed. You stood with me. And together, with the Spirit of Jesus Christ, we contributed to the expansion of Jesus' Kingdom in Asia.

Your prayers kept me going through health challenges, covered

me during travel and cloaked me through customs. Your support funded the mission, demonstrated Jesus to the suffering and laid the foundation for future work in the region.

From myself, the staff and the many believers and yet unreached in this region, I thank you for the part you played in demonstrating and declaring the Gospel in Asia.

-Steve Evers, Summer Kelley



Thank you for the part you played in demonstrating and declaring the Gospel in Asia!

# AN EASTER THANK YOU

Several of our partners have written and shared thoughts and encouragement on Holy Week and Easter. Read them online or download a PDF to print and enjoy!



Visit  
[intouchmission.org/easter2023](https://intouchmission.org/easter2023)

## FOR PRAISE

1. Asia - Evers - Many provisions, protections and opportunities provided during travel in Asia.
2. South Africa - le Roux - Provision of funds for Onseepkans pastors to attend the conference and grow as leaders.
3. Poland - Gorski - Evangelical Poland's Church planting Summit in early April would catalyze the planting and thriving of future churches in Poland.
4. Zambia - Leach - Chongwe pastors eager to grow in Biblical leadership and discipleship.

## FOR PRAYER

1. South Sudan - Lazarus - Quick healing and the prevention of infection of a debilitating foot injury.
2. Romania/Ukraine - Ban - Restoration and encouragement for 10 couples serving under fire in Ukraine at retreat in Romania this month.
3. Zambia - Leach - Continued healing for Florence, wife of a local pastor and co-minister, who suffered a stroke.
4. Romania - Casa Dorca - Provision of funds to purchase wood in the next couple months, in time to dry out before next winter.



PO Box 7575, Tempe, AZ 85281 (480) 968-4100 (888) 918-4100  
[intouchmission@intouchmission.org](mailto:intouchmission@intouchmission.org) | [fb.com/intouchmission](https://fb.com/intouchmission)  
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